Acting undergraduate clerks in the Registration Department.

146. ❋ **MR. K. MAHOMED** (*Alwaye*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement, by caste, showing the number of undergraduate clerks who have put in less than 15 years' service and who have passed the Registration Test and been exempted from the disqualification of being appointed as Sub-Registrars?

(*b*) Of these how many from each caste are given promotion as Sub-Registrars by the present Director of Registration?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Nairs 2
Christian 1.
Mahommedan 1.

(*b*) One Christian.

Appointment of Muslims in the Judicial Department.

147. ❋ **MR. K. MAHOMED** (*Alwaye*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is any Standing Order from the High Court to the effect that, in the matter of appointments, preference should be given to Muslims; and

(*b*) how far it is brought into practice?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the negative

(*b*) In view of the answer to (*a*), this does not arise.

Seniority in the ministerial staff of the Judicial Department.

148. ❋ **MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON** (*Shertala I*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the question of seniority among several candidates is determined in the Judicial Department by the priority of confirmation in a particular grade?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, if the qualifications are equal.

Southern Market bridge at Kayankulam.

149. ❋ **MR. M. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the date on which the Chief Engineer or the Government got information of the collapse of the southern market bridge at Kayankulam;

(*b*) whether they propose to construct a new bridge there;

(*c*) whether any estimates have been called for; and

(*d*) whether the work will be taken in hand immediately or in the near future?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): (*a*) The bridge did not collapse but was closed for traffic on 2-8-26/18-12-1101 as one set of piles was found badly exposed and it was considered unsafe to allow traffic over it.

(*b*) Yes.

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